GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2164
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009
SMUGGLING OF ENDANGERED WILD ANIMALS
Munda Shri Arjun

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of smuggling of endangered wild animals to other countries are on the increase;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported from each State/ Union Territory during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the number of smugglers booked, arrested and sentenced during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken to curb the smuggling of endangered wild animals from the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) Instances of large scale smuggling of endangered wild animals indicating increasing trend in their smuggling from the country, has not been brought to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) & (c) Details have not been collated at Government of India level.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to check smuggling of wild animals and its articles are as under:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime and amended from time to time for stringent penalties for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.

2. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.

3. Financial support is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes − Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, to State /UT Governments for the conservation and management of wildlife and its habitats.

4. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.

5. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.

6. India is also a founder member of the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking, which is an international forum working against wildlife crime.